

Appl. No. 09/891,000
Atty. Docket No. 7940
Amdt. dated 6/10/04
Reply to Office Action of 3/26/04
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 30-37, 42-45, and 48 are in the case.

Claim 30 (and, perforce, all claims ultimately depending therefrom) has been amended to recited the presence of the (N, N_Dimethylamino) ethyl methacrylate homopolymer as the suds stabilizer. Basis is at page 18, line 6. (Reference to U.S. Appn. 09/891,000.) It is submitted that the amendment is fully supported, and entry is requested.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner's objection to the Specification (Office Action, page 3) is noted. The problem appears to arise from the page number recited with respect to the amendatory matter that was previously presented.

Note, that the present application is based on WO 00/46333. In that document, the amendatory matter would appear at page 12 of the printed copy.

However, with regard to the U.S. Application 09/891,000, the amendatory matter appears at page 13 of the e-mailed copy. It is this Application to which the previous amendment refers.

In any event, it is submitted that the amendment of the amine formula is correct. Applicants' Attorney regrets any confusion caused by the differences in pagination with respect to the documents. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Claims 30-37, 42-45 and 48 stand rejected over U.S. 5,990,065, for reasons of record at pages 2-3 of the Office Action.

Claims 30-33, 36-37, 42-45 and 48 stand rejected over U.S. 4,206,070, for reasons of record at pages 3-4 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse all rejections, to the extent they may apply to the claims, as amended herewith.

At the outset, it is noted that the claims, as amended, recite the presence of the specified homopolymer as the suds booster/stabilizer. It is submitted that nothing in either '065 or '070 teaches or suggests the use of this homopolymer for any purpose whatsoever. Moreover, nothing in either '065 or '070 suggests the modification of the compositions disclosed therein to include such homopolymer, together with the other components of the claimed compositions.

Turning first to '070, one finds a general statement that the disclosed compositions can contain suds boosters. (Col. 6, l. 51) However, such boosters do not appear to be described with particularity, and certainly do not include the homopolymer of the present claims (as amended).

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Accordingly, it is submitted that '070 does not fairly teach or suggest the present invention in the sense of §103. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections on this basis are requested.

The '065 patent teaches the use of suds boosters (Col. 25, l. 6) but refers to C₁₀-C₁₆ monoethanol and diethanol amides for this purpose

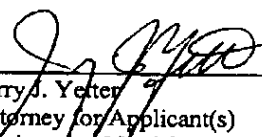
A wide variety of "polymeric dispersing agents" are disclosed in '065 at Col. 20, l. 51 – Col. 21, l. 50. A wide variety of soil release agents are also disclosed at Col. 21, l. 51 – Col. 22, l. 29. Still further polymeric materials are disclosed at Col. 22, l. 30 – Col. 23, l. 55.

It is submitted that none of this broad disclosure – which encompasses a multitude of polymeric materials – fairly suggests the homopolymer of the present invention for any purpose, let alone as a suds booster/stabilizer. Indeed, even assuming *arguendo* that the homopolymer herein is somehow encompassed in this very broad listing of polymers, there is no suggestion in '065 to pluck it from such listing for use in the manner of the present invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections on this basis are requested.

In light of the foregoing, early and favorable action in the case is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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